

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

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ACTION OFFICE PDH-01

INFO ACSC-01 DSO-02 DIS-01 PD-02 NEA-03 PG-01 /011 A1 21

R 021147Z DEC 86

TO RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC 5435

RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0481

INFO RUSHPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR 6630

BT

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 01 OF 02 ISLAMABAD

USIA

FOR P/DH, INFO NEA, P/G

STATE FOR NEA/PAB, NEA -PASS TO AMB. DUNBAR

E.O. 12356: OADR

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 01 OF 02 ISLAMABAD

1. NICK MILLS DEPARTED ISLAMABAD DECEMBER 1 AT THE CONCLUSION OF WHAT WE BOTH AGREED WAS A SOLID AND USEFUL TWO AND A HALF WEEKS OF CONSULTATIONS IN PAKISTAN. HIS TIME WAS DIVIDED EQUALLY BETWEEN PESHAWAR AND ISLAMABAD DURING WHICH HE MET MOST OF THE PRINCIPAL PLAYERS AVAILABLE IN BOTH PLACES.

3. TRAINING SHOULD START ON OR ABOUT FEBRUARY 1. A NUMBER OF FACTORS, NOT JUST SOLELY THE LACK OF AN AFGHAN HEAD, LED US TO THIS CONCLUSION. AMONG THESE ARE (A) THE NEED FOR BU AND MERCY FUND TO COORDINATE THEIR OWN ACT, (B) NEED TO COORDINATE WITH THE ALLIANCE ON RECRUITMENT OF CANDIDATES, (C) THE NEED TO HAVE THE VIDEO CAMERAS IN PLACE. WE HAVE STRESSED THIS ONE BEFORE, BUT OUR OWN EXPERIENCE TELLS US THAT YOU ARE NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO GET THEM HERE AS FAST AS YOU THINK YOU ARE, PARTICULARLY IF YOU DECIDE TO USE THE POUCH. MILLS SAYS THEY HAVE YET TO EVEN MAKE A FINAL DECISION ON THE CAMERA AND THIS WILL BE SOMETHING WHICH IS TAKEN UP WHEN HE RETURNS TO BOSTON.

4. IT WAS AGREED THAT TRAINING WOULD BE SPLIT BETWEEN ISLAMABAD AND PESHAWAR WITH THE FIRST MONTH OF THE VIDEO TRAINING BEING CONDUCTED AT THE PAKISTAN TV ACADEMY. THE BALANCE OF VIDEO TRAINING WOULD BE DONE IN THE FIELD, EITHER IN PESHAWAR OR NEARBY. THE PRINT AND STILL-PHOTOGRAPHY TRAINING WOULD BE DONE IN PESHAWAR, PROBABLY OUT OF THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE NEWS AGENCY.

5. THE AGENCY ITSELF WILL BE LOCATED IN PESHAWAR, PROBABLY IN A RENTED HOUSE IN UNIVERSITY TOWN. WE TRUST YOU WILL EXPLORE WITH THE MERCY FUND EXACTLY WHAT THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THIS MIGHT BE. THEY CURRENTLY RENT A HOUSE JUST THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TRACKS FROM UNIVERSITY TOWN THAT MILLS HAS SEEN AND BELIEVES WOULD BE ADEQUATE. IT WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE GOP, AND IS SUSPECT TO THE AFGHANS, TO HAVE THE NEW AGENCY MOVE IN AND SIMPLY BE A GUEST OF THE MERCY FUND IN THEIR OFFICIAL QUARTERS. IF THE MERCY FUND CHOOSES TO TURN THIS LEASE OVER, PARTICULARLY IF THEY CHOOSE TO TURN IT OVER RENT FREE, THEN I THINK THIS MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE TO ALL PARTIES. THIS WOULD PRESUME THAT ANNE HURD, WHO IS CURRENTLY LIVING IN THE HOUSE, AND HURT LOHBECK, WHO USES IT AS A TRANSIT STOP BETWEEN TRIPS INTO AND OUT OF AFGHANISTAN, WOULD HAVE TO MOVE ON TO OTHER QUARTERS.

6. MILLS AND I WENT VERY SLOWLY WITH THE GOP ON THE QUESTION OF THE MERCY FUND ROLE, PRESENTING IT PRIMARILY AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENT BY THE PRIME GRANTEE, BOSTON UNIVERSITY. IN INITIAL TALKS BETWEEN MILLS AND CAMPAIGNE THERE WAS AGREEMENT THAT, ASSUMING THAT MERCY FUND DOES COME ABOARD, IT WOULD NOT PROMOTE THE ANS IN ITS LITERATURE DURING THE SENSITIVE FIRST MONTHS OF THE AGENCY'S EXISTENCE. IF THEY TAKE OVER THE BURDEN OF FUNDING THE ANS AFTER THE FIRST YEAR, THEY WILL CLEARLY THEN HAVE TO GO FURTHER IN THEIR FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES. I SUSPECT AT THAT POINT,

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TELEGRAM

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ACTION OFFICE PDH-01
INFO ACOC-01 DSO-02 DIS-01 PD-02 NEA-03 PG-01 /011 A1 21

R 021147Z DEC 86
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC 5436
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0482
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BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 ISLAMABAD 25502

USIA

FOR P/DH, INFO NEA, P/G
STATE FOR NEA/PAB, NEA - PASS TO AMB. DUNBAR

E. O. 12356: OADR
SUBJECT: AFGHAN MEDIA PROJECT: NICK MILLS' CONSULTATIONS

ASSUMING THE THING IS WORKING SUCCESSFULLY, A LOT OF
THE SENSITIVITY WILL BE REDUCED.

7. IN ADDITION, MANY ASPECTS OF THE MERCY FUND/BU
RELATIONSHIP STILL HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT IN BOSTON
BETWEEN CAMPAIGNE, MILLS AND MAITRE. THIS WILL
HAPPEN AS SOON AS EVERYBODY IS IN TOWN TOGETHER.

8. MILLS WILL BE DOING A COMPLETE REPORT AND WILL
BE SUBMITTING IT TO SAUL GEFTER. WE, OF COURSE, WOULD
WELCOME A COPY. OBEE

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